



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

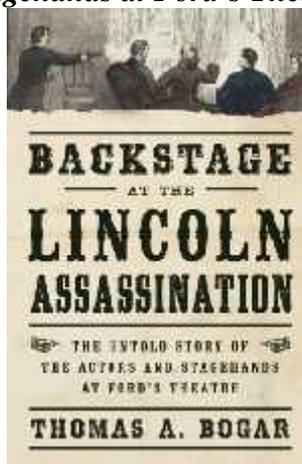


June 12, 2017 at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting at MCL Cafeteria – Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day

Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination: The Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre



April 14, 1865. Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C. 10:14 p.m. John Wilkes Booth pulls a trigger in the presidential balcony, leaps to the stage and escapes, as Abraham Lincoln lies mortally wounded. In the panic that follows, forty-six terrified actors, managers and stage hands scatter in and around the theatre as soldiers take up stations by the doors and the audience surges into the street chanting, "Burn the place down!"

This is the exquisitely detailed, untold story of Lincoln's assassination: of these forty-six theatre employees that night, and what each of them witnessed in the chaos-streaked hours before John Wilkes Booth was discovered to be the culprit.

In *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*, theatre historian Thomas A. Bogar utilizes previously unpublished sources to tell the story of Lincoln's assassination from a unique new point of view: behind the curtain. Some theatre personnel closely connected to Booth were never questioned, while innocent figures were relentlessly pursued. Learn how Booth knew each member of the cast and crew in what had been for years a backstage tinderbox of Union-Confederate rivalry and conflict.

Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination also tells the story of what happened to each of these witnesses to history after the investigation was over, as they tried to move on with their lives.

Our Guest Speaker



Thomas A. Bogar has taught theatre history, dramatic literature, and theatrical production for forty years, most recently at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and directed over seventy theatrical productions. He holds a Ph.D. in theatre history/literature/criticism from Louisiana State University. In addition to *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*, he is the author of *American Presidents Attend the Theatre* and a biography of 19th-century actor-manager *John E. Owens*. His writing has appeared in *Washington History*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, and *Teaching Theatre*. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and served as a judge for Washington's Helen Hayes Theatre Awards. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He will have books for sale: \$20 for hardbacks, and \$15 for paperbacks.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2016-2017 Campaign

Officers:

President: Chris Smith

Vice President: Dave Sutherland

Secretary: Mark Thornton

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Peg Bertelli

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Chris Smith, Jenny Thompson, Dave Klinestiver

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Members are encouraged to wear their badges to the meetings, so people will know who you are.

If you have a short article, book review, or some other item that may be of interest to our members, please submit it via email to the editor at jkt60jet@gmail.com by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

2017-2018 Campaign Plans

- September 11, 2017 – David Dixon – *The Lost Gettysburg Address: Charles Anderson's Civil War Odyssey*
- October 9, 2017 – Anthony J. Ziebol – *The Angel of Marye's Heights*
- November 13, 2017 – David Garshaw – *The American Civil War and Religion*
- December 11, 2017 – Mike Murphy – *The Kimberlins Go to War: A Union Family in Copperhead Country*
- January 8, 2018 – Stephen Towne – *Surveillance and Spies in the Civil War: Exposing Confederate Conspiracies in America's Heartland*
- February 12, 2018 – Fred Schaefer– *Indianapolis and the War of the Rebellion*
- March 12, 2018 – Kraig McNutt – *58th Indiana and their role at Stone's River*
- April 9, 2018 – Mark Laubacher – *Cold Blooded Envenomation of 1861-65*
- May 14, 2018 – Jenny Thompson – *Above Us or Around Us: The Story and Men of the Bloody Eighth*
- June 11, 2018 – Jennifer Murray – *On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933-2013*

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: They meet at the Carmel City Hall, located at 1 Civic Square, Carmel, IN 46032. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program will start at 7:00 in the Second Floor Counsel Room. Join them for dinner at 5:15 p.m. at Dooley O'Toole's Restaurant at 160 E. Carmel Dr., Carmel, IN 46032. Meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

September 13, 2017 - Carol Janney, "Women in the Civil War"

October 11, 2017 - Greg Biggs, "Forrest the Napoleonic Cavalry"

November 8, 2017 - Pam Newhouse, "Three Brothers at Gettysburg"

January 10, 2018 - Brian Dirck, "Lincoln and the Constitution"

February 14, 2018 - Mike Murphy, "The Fighting Kimberlin Family"

March 14, 2018 - John Heiser, "1913 Gettysburg Reunion"

April 11, 2018 - Dave Finney - "Stonewall Jackson's Last Days"

May 9, 2018 - Dr. E.C. Fields , "General U.S. Grant"

Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable: They meet on the third Monday each month except July, August, and December at 7 p.m. at the Madison County History Center, 15 West 11th Street, in downtown Anderson.

June 19, 2017 - TBA

July - no meeting

August - no meeting

September 18, 2017 - Tony Roscetti, "Acoustic Shadow"

October 16, 2017 - TBA

November 20, 2017 - "Filling the Ranks"

Special Orders

CWRT Congress on September 16, 2017: Over the past several years, at least 64 CWRTs have closed their doors. The result of those tragic closures was brought on by insufficient membership, a lack of a sustaining organizational structure, no succession planning and insufficient funding. We will explore other intervening factors at the Congress. Many of us are very distressed by that and have a desire to assist the remaining CWRTs to ensure that doesn't happen to your organization. We have developed a forum for leaders to learn how the country's most successful CWRTs have addressed those issues and more. This one-day event will feature leaders from the Brunswick CWRT (NC) with 1,185 members and the Scottsdale (AZ) CWRT with over 400 who will tell you how they have succeeded and inspire you to replicate their results in your community. *We have nothing to sell; our advice comes simply from a genuine desire to see all Civil War Roundtables succeed.* Additionally, the forum will provide ample opportunity to interact with presenters, renew old friendships and make new friends with those who have a similar love for Civil War history. The Congress is hosted by the Bull Run CWRT in Centreville, VA. Cost is \$30 and includes a box lunch.

Optional tours of Bull Run and Balls Bluff battlefields on the days following the Congress are also offered. For more information and to register for the event, please visit <http://www.pscwrt.org/congress.html>. Seating is limited, so register now! If you want to go or will be in that area, please contact Chris Smith and let him know.

The Spring Mill Civil War Symposium on August 17-19, 2017: The first Annual Summer Symposium of the CWEA will be held at the Spring Mill Inn at Spring Mill State Historic Park in Mitchell, Indiana on August 17-19, 2017. Speakers include: Thomas Y. Cartwright, Stephen Davis, David L. Mowery, Michael B. Murphy, Dale K. Phillips, Stephen Lee Ritchie, James I. "Bud" Robertson, Darryl Smith, Craig L. Symonds, Jeffrey D. Wert and Brian Steel Wills. Registration fee is \$395.00, which includes the Thursday evening reception, Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday lunch and evening cookout. Enroll online for the Symposium at WWW.CWEA.NET, Call **800-298-1861**, or fill out the form on the linked brochure: <http://www.cwea.net/sites/default/files/print-versions/2017%20Spring%20Mill%20Symposium.pdf>. The nightly room rate at the inn (located at 3333 State Road 60-N, Mitchell, IN 47446) for attendees is \$80.99 + tax. Call 812-849-4508 to reserve your room.

Proposed Desecration of Fort Negley: Fort Negley was the largest limestone fort built during the Civil War. The Battle of Nashville occurred south of the fort on December 15-16, 1864. After the war, it fell into disrepair until it was rebuilt in the WPA era of the mid-20th century. It was again cleaned up in the 2000s and became part of the Nashville Metro Parks Development. Tourists can still walk through the fort and visit the interpretive center, but developers now want to build condos, low cost housing, stores, etc. on the site of the contraband camp. Greg Biggs urges us to send emails to the Nashville government and the parks development urging them to stop this development before more Civil War history is lost.

"The People v. Jefferson Davis": The May 2017 issue of the Smithsonian magazine has a short article entitled "The People v. Jefferson Davis." It states that if Davis had been put on trial, it would have been the trial of the century. It lists three other sensational trials at the bottom of the page: Aaron Burr's treason trial (1807), the eight conspirators for the assassination of Lincoln, and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's adultery trial (1875).

Washington City Citadel: Nikki Schofield's new book will be available for purchase at the banquet (\$20 for softcover and \$35 for hardcover). These will be autographed copies.

Above Us or Around Us: Jenny Thompson's book on the Eighth Indiana has been published in a four volume series entitled, *Above Us or Around Us*. Volume I: The Story of the Bloody Eighth tells the history of both the three-month and three-year Eighth Indiana Infantry regiments from April 1861 to August 1865. Readers will learn how they chose their motto "Above Us or Around Us," how they earned their nickname "The Bloody Eighth," and what occurred during each battle. They will also learn about the soldiers' family ties, claims to fame, and tragic endings. This volume includes poems about the Battle of Cedar Creek and poems written by James Whitcomb Riley, whose father, uncle, and favorite teacher served in this regiment, and includes regimental correspondence. Volume II: The Men of the Bloody Eighth A-K and Volume III: The Men of the Bloody Eighth L-Z continue the story of the Eighth Indiana Infantry through the biographies of the soldiers and contrabands who served in this regiment. Readers will learn about the regiment's Medal of Honor recipient, the soldier who made and sold the first ice cream cone in the world, James Whitcomb Riley's teacher and relatives of James Whitcomb Riley and Carrie Nation, the soldier who held ten patents for his inventions, and the soldier related to Presidents William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison. Two soldiers in this volume named the town of Windfall, Indiana. One soldier and his brother built the first threshing machine in Indiana. Several soldiers experienced close encounters with death or PTSD, which led to suicide. Some became murder victims or committed murder. These biographies will leave a lasting impression on readers as they learn more about the men of the Bloody Eighth. Volume IV: The Story and the Men of the Bloody Eighth in the News includes the newspaper articles that provide reports during the war and about brigade reunions after the war. The articles also help readers learn about tragedies, special events, and the deaths of the soldiers in this regiment. Readers can also follow a Tennessee murder trial. The men of the "Bloody Eighth" lived up to their motto "Above Us or Around Us" and are men to be remembered for years to come. This series is now available on Amazon.com:

https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Mrs.+Jennifer+Thompson&search-alias=books&field-

[author=Mrs.+Jennifer+Thompson&sort=relevancerank](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Mrs.+Jennifer+Thompson&search-alias=books&field-author=Mrs.+Jennifer+Thompson&sort=relevancerank)

Complete autographed series special price \$70 for those at the meeting.

Official Records

May Attendance: 32

Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund: The Executive Board of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table has established this fund to provide membership

dues, annual tour expenses or other worthwhile purpose for any full-time student of any age. Please see Tony Roscetti to donate to this fund.

Facebook: The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is on Facebook. We invite you to join our group. Feel free to post Civil War related messages on our site.

Charitable Sponsors: In an effort to upgrade our speakers and programs, the board of ICWRT is asking members and organizations with which they are involved (companies or charitable organizations) to consider sponsoring one or more speakers. This could be done as a gift now, or a person could opt to make a bequest in a will for that purpose. Because of our limited membership, we can't bring in as many national speakers as we would like to. If you are interested or want more info, call Chris Smith at 450-7430.

Help Sponsor a Meeting: We are accepting donations in increments of fifty dollars to help pay the cost of our monthly rental: \$50 (Brigadier General); \$100 (Major General); \$150 (Lieutenant General); and \$200 (General). Those who donate \$200 will be given the honor of leading the pledge to the flag before the meeting. Checks should be written to the Indiana Historical Society with "ICWRT" noted in the memo line and given to treasurer Tony Roscetti, so we can keep a record of the donations.

Test Your Civil War Knowledge (with Trimble's Trivia)

Answers to the May Quiz:

1. Special medals were created to commemorate the defense of what Civil War installation? *** Ft. Sumter
2. Fighting occurred during a Federal expedition up the White River in what state? *** Arkansas
3. Who said, "We didn't take Washington but we scared Abe Lincoln like hell"? *** Gen. Jubal Early
4. Where were forces under Gen. Samuel Sturgis routed by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest? *** Battle of Brice's Crossroads
5. The 1st Indiana Artillery was known by what unusual nickname? Why? *** Jackass Regiment because their guns were pulled by mules

The Nation Speaks

Quotes from: Wright, John, ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Jefferson Davis: "Certainly, I have no special regard for Mr. Lincoln, but there are a great many men of whose end I would rather hear than his. I fear it will be disastrous to our people and I regret it deeply." (70)

Frederick Douglass: "How sad and strange the fate of this great and good man, the savior of his country, the embodiment of human charity, whose heart, though strong, was as

tender as a heart of childhood; who always tempered justice with mercy; who sought to supplant the sword with counsel of reason, to suppress passion by kindness and moderation; who had a sigh for every human grief and a tear for every human woe, should at last perish by the hand of a desperate assassin, against whom no thought of malice had ever entered his heart!” (82)

John B. Jones: “President Lincoln was killed by Booth (Jno. Wilkes), an actor. I suppose his purpose is to live in history as the slayer of a tyrant; thinking to make the leading character in a tragedy, and have his performance acted by others on the stage. I see no grief on the faces of either officers or men of the Federal army.” (179)

U.S. Nurse Sarah R. Blunt: “How dreadful the news of yesterday is...The soldiers here are enraged and talk of nothing now but *revenge* and retaliation.” (29)

Civilian of the Month



Photo from Pinterest and information from “John F. Parker: The Guard Who Abandoned His Post.” Abraham Lincoln’s Assassination. Accessed April 28, 2016.

<http://rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln61.html>

John F. Parker was one of the first 150 officers of the Metropolitan Police Force in 1861. He did not have a spotless record, yet he became one of Lincoln’s presidential guards on November 3, 1864. He arrived three hours late to the White House that night and was told to go to Ford’s Theatre to wait for the president to arrive. After Lincoln and his guests were seated, he could only hear the play from his seat outside the State Box, so he moved to a better seat. During the intermission, he and Lincoln’s footman (Charles Forbes) and coachman (Francis P. Burke) went to the saloon next door for a drink. He was not at his post when Booth entered the State Box. “One of Lincoln’s other bodyguards, William H. Crook, said of Parker: ‘Had he done his duty, I believe President

Lincoln would not have been murdered by Booth. Parker knew he had failed in duty. He looked like a convicted criminal the next day. He was never the same man afterward.”

Historic Site of the Month



Photo and information from National Park Service

Ford's Theatre National Historic Site is open daily for tours from 9-5, except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Free admission but timed entry tickets are required. Occasionally the theater closes for matinees, rehearsals and special events, but the museum downstairs will still be open.

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

Annual Dinner Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2017

at

MCL Cafeteria – Township Line *

2370 W. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260
(317) 334-1875

Doors to the banquet room will be open by 6:00 pm

Food and drinks can be purchased in the cafeteria

Meeting will begin at 6:45 pm

Our Guest Speaker: Thomas Bogar

Speaker's Topic: *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination: the Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre*

* **Directions:** From the North on I-465, take the Meridian St. / US 31 N exit. Keep left to take the Meridian St. ramp. Turn left (south) on N. Meridian Street. Turn right (west) on 86th St. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the east, travel west on 86th St., passing Meridian St., Spring Mill Rd., and Ditch Rd. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the South, take Meridian St. north until you reach 86th Street. Turn left (west). MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the west, travel east on 86th St. to Township Line Rd. MCL is on the left just after you pass Township Line Road.

Reservations are not required. All members and guests are invited to attend.

Please contact Tony Roscetti at 317-475-9227 or anthony.roschetti@pnc.com if you have any questions or comments.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Re-enlist NOW for the 2017-2018 Campaign

All ICWRT members may continue to receive the monthly newsletter, HARDTACK, via email at no additional charge. Members who prefer to receive the HARDTACK by U.S. Mail are asked to pay an additional \$12.00 to help cover printing and mailing costs.



Please bring your completed re-enlistment form (below) together with your payment to Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, and give it to Tony Roscetti, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Tony Roscetti
6260 Green Leaves Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 475-9227
Email: anthony.roschetti@pnc.com

Please complete and detach the form below and include with your check:

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2017 thru June 2018

Please print legibly!

Name..... Date

Address.....
.....

Phone: (.....) Email Address:

We must have a valid email address if you wish to receive the HARDTACK newsletter free of charge!

(please specify Membership Level):

_____ **\$30 Individual** _____ **\$35 Family** _____ **\$15 Student**

_____ **I wish to receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail for an additional \$12**

In addition to my membership dues, please accept my generous gift of \$ _____
to the ICWRT general operating account (This donation is not tax deductible)

If someone invited you to join the ICWRT, please list his or her name below:

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224